(c) if so, the details thereof; Centre's response thereto and present status of the Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005 has enabled special provisions to be made by law in matters of admission to educational institutions, including private unaided institutions imparting professional education, for the advancement of the weaker sections. There is no Central law/regulation at present for the reservation of seats in unaided private professional institutions.

(b) No Bill with the mentioned title has been received by the Central Government from the State Government of Karnataka.

(c) Does not arise.

Unesco's report on teachers attendance

†155. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report of the UNESCO entitled "Corrupt Schools, Corrupt Universities: what can be done" according to which 25 per cent teachers do not attend their schools and the country is better than Uganda only in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that attendance of teachers in schools in Bihar is 38 per cent and that in Gujarat it is only 17 per cent;

(c) whether main reasons behind it are low salary, poor infrastructure of schools, ineffective system of monitoring and decreasing moral values amongst teachers; and

(d) if so, whether Government would have consultations with the educationists and the State Governments to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Attention of Government has been drawn to this Report which states, *inter-alia*, that the absence rate of teachers in primary schools was 25 per cent in 2002. Of the eight countries surveyed in the Report only Uganda had a higher absence rate.

(b) The Report also mentions that in the case of India, absence rate of teachers varies from 15 per cent in Gujarat to 38 per cent in Bihar.

(c) The Report cites some of the main reasons for this situation as being low salaries, failure to pay teachers on time, delays in promotion and transfer, quality of school infrastructure, weak monitoring and local control mechanisms, etc.

(d) The Government is continuously engaged, through consultation with State Government educations and experts in promoting quality improvement and administrative and managerial innovation in educational systems.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.